

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

By the foregoing amendments, claim 3 has been amended, claims 1-2 and 4-6 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 7-11 have been added. Thus, claims 3 and 7-11 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

The Abstract was objected to because it exceeded the maximum of 150 words, and included the words: "said" and "means." Applicants respectfully present an amended replacement paragraph for the Abstract of the present application. It is submitted that the replacement paragraph for the Abstract does not exceed 150 words, does not include either of the words: "said" and "means," and therefore is in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.72(b). Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objections to the Abstract.

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art ("AAPA"), and claims 2 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Hanke, III et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,376,848, "Hanke"). To the extent that these rejections remain applicable in view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants have canceled claims 1, 4, and 6, without prejudice. Therefore, the anticipation rejection of claims 1, 4, and 6 has been rendered moot. However, Applicants have added new independent claims 7-10. Therefore, Applicants have addressed new independent claims 7-10 in view of AAPA.

Applicants' independent claim 7 describes a delay time adjusting circuit comprising "a first divider configured to divide a frequency of said input signal by a first division rate, . . . [and] a second divider configured to divide a frequency of said output signal by a second division rate higher than said first division rate," and Applicants' independent claim 9 includes method limitations corresponding to these apparatus limitations. Similarly, Applicants' independent claim 8 describes a delay time adjusting circuit comprising "a divider configured to divide a frequency of said output signal by a division rate, wherein a frequency of a signal from said driver is less than a frequency of said input signal, [and] a phase comparison circuit configured to compare phases of said input signal and said signal from said divider," and Applicants' independent claim 10 includes method limitations corresponding to these apparatus limitations.

In contrast, and as stated in Applicants' specification, in AAPA, the first division rate and the second division rate are the same. See, e.g., Appl'n, Page 1, Line 37; and Page 2, Lines 1 and 2. Moreover, with respect to independent claims 8 and 10, in AAPA, the comparison circuit does not compare the phase of the input signal to the phase of the signal from the driver. Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claims 7-10 are allowable over AAPA.

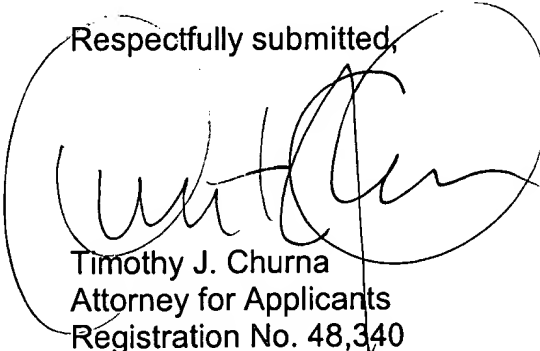
Claim 3 depends from allowable claim 7. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the anticipation rejection of claim 3.

Claims 2 and 5 have been canceled, without prejudice. Therefore, the obviousness rejection of claims 2 and 5 has been rendered moot.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-titled patent application is in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly requested. If the Examiner believes that an in-person or telephonic interview with Applicants' representatives would expedite the prosecution of the above-titled patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of record. Applicants are enclosing a check in the amount of \$86.00 covering the requisite large entity fee for one (1) independent claim in excess of three (3) independent claims. Nevertheless, in the event of any variance between the fees determined Applicants and those determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please charge any such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy J. Churna', is written over a large, faint circular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

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